

Garrett Park Film Society -- 2008 Film List

January 18th: Destry Rides Again (American 1939), Comedy. Jimmy Stewart and Marlene Dietrich in a classic Western that combines suspense, comedy, romance, songs, tragedy, horseplay and vivid characterization. See why Lord Beaverbrook said, "Marlene Dietrich standing on a bar in black net stockings, belting out *See What the Boys in the Back Room Will Have* is a greater work of art than the Venus de Milo." Be prepared for a very entertaining evening!

February 15th: Avenue Montaigne (French 2006), Comedy, Drama. This is our Valentine's Day treat. "An absolute must for Francophiles and a great choice for anyone who loves a vibrant ensemble dramedy, *Avenue Montaigne* is a bustling delight, a slice of Parisian artistic life that will have you dialing Air France the morning after you see it." Subtitled. Suitable for early teens.

April 4th: Crash (American 2005), Crime, Social Issues. Described by one reviewer as "compelling, brilliant, gripping, constantly surprising - everything cinema should be" won the Academy Award for best picture in 2006. This thought-provoking film will be followed by a discussion of the issues it raises about the human condition and living in the modern world. Suitable for mature teens.

June 20th: Legend of the Drunken Master (Hong Kong 1994) Comedy, Martial Arts, Jackie Chan, the world's biggest action star mixes high-proof action with a twist of his trademark humor. Elaborate acrobatic fight sequences are captured in this unusual film. Suitable for teens and the rest of us!

July 18th: East is East (English 1999) a comedy-drama about the cultural clash in a Pakistani-English family when the father attempts to arrange the marriages of his sons. You will be struck by the universality of family dynamics and have a good laugh in the bargain.

September 5th: Children of Heaven (Iranian 1997) is a "perfect movie for children" and adults according to Roger Ebert. The film offers a window into a culture and country about which we know little, yet reveals much about what we all have in common. Subtitled. Suitable for ages 8 and up.

October 17th: Election (American 1999) As we head into the 2008 election, come enjoy this hilarious look at a campaign for Student Body President. Tracy Flick (Reese Witherspoon at her best) is the hyper-ambitious solo candidate until civics teacher Jim McAllister (Matthew Broderick in good form) encourages a dim but popular football player to run. Chaos ensues. You will laugh while nodding in recognition at the elements of ambition, corruption and desire that can be found in real world elections.

November 21st: Rules of the Game (French 1939), a comedy with subtitles, suitable for mature teens, was directed by Jean Renoir (Claude's son) and is considered one of the greatest movies of all time by many film critics. The story is an upstairs-downstairs comedy of manners set in a French country estate, but it is the "masterly visual design" that takes "the black and white film to the realm of immortality" according to reviews.